



Rehabilitation

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP)
Millicent Tidwell, Director

Making Connections Stockton Parolee Resource Fair



New horizons were explored on November 9, 2013 when 200 parolees met with 18 different career training, education and employment representatives at a resource fair held by Behavioral Interventions (BI) Day Reporting Center in conjunction with Butte County Office of Education (BCOE) and CDCR's Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO). Lowe's Home Improvement Store, Con-Fab, San Joaquin County WorkNet and representatives for apprenticeship programs, labor unions, driving schools and contracting companies were represented at the fair, held at the Stockton Parole Office.

[The Resource Fair](#) exceeded planners' expectations for attendance. The event was full of motivated job seekers until close. Employers met scores of potential employees and learned about [work opportunity tax credits](#) and [fidelity bonding](#) for parolees. Job seekers completed applications on the spot, and interviews were scheduled for the next week.

Due to this event's success, future events are being planned.

Please contact Julie Kaplan, Division of Adult Parole Operations, Julie.Kaplan@cdcr.ca.gov or Crescencio (Chis) Castaneda, Behavioral Interventions, Crescencio.Castaneda@bi.org.

GED Testing Goes DIGITAL

Technology is breaking through the walls of correctional facilities in 2014! Schools administering the General Educational Development (GED) exam will utilize a computer based test version. This is a result of collaboration between a CDCR Enterprise Information Systems (EIS) team headed by Wesley Odd and the Office of Correctional Education (OCE), led by Superintendent (A) Jennifer Winistorfer and Associate Superintendent (A) Dr. Kenya Williams.



Team members (l-r) are Wesley Odd, Tam Tu, Sarita Mehtani, Pam Ditto, Minh Nguyen and Dr. Kenya Williams; (front row) Margarita Posedel, Amanvir Sahata, Rob Bassett and Jenny Casner. Not pictured: Doug Dinnell, Gerald Dionisio and Ken Spencer

OCE Principal Sarita Mehtani worked closely with EIS and service provider Pearson Vue™ to successfully test the software that will be deployed on 740 laptop computers throughout all adult institutions. The new GED computer based test is aligned to Common Core Standards which challenge students, nationwide, to be better prepared for the ever changing demands of the modern workplace. These new standards put more focus on writing and critical thinking skills which are essential for successful entry into today's workforce.

"The most rewarding thing for the team is not only another on-time and successful, statewide Inmate Education Program deployment, but the first digital GED Implementation that incorporates 36 independent sites."
Jennifer Winistorfer, Office of Correctional Education

Please contact Ken Spencer, Office of Correctional Education, kenneth.spencer@cdcr.ca.gov

Today!

DMV Issues Cal I.D. Cards!



Having a California identification card is critical for employment, and the [Cal I.D. Card](#) program helps offenders obtain one upon release. The Department of Motor Vehicles has begun issuing these cards to qualifying offenders!

IST #8332 Quest for the Plaque



Institutions are in the final weeks of soliciting staff to

complete the new Rehabilitative Programming IST bulletin and quiz! **The contest ends Dec. 20**, and the winning institution will be featured in a future newsletter and honored with a plaque! IST Staff — **see if you can catch either North Kern State Prison (NKSP) or California Medical Facility (CMF) in their quest for the plaque!**

IST report to Mary.thomas2@cdcr.ca.gov by 12/24

Congratulations!



"I want to congratulate both Millicent Tidwell and Rodger Meier on their appointments. Both of these individuals have a long record of public service and dedication to improving the lives of others. Under their leadership, I'm confident CDCR will continue to build upon its commitment to improve public safety by rehabilitating California prison inmates to become better citizens when they re-enter our communities."
CDCR Secretary Jeffrey Beard, Ph. D.



Rehabilitation

Today!

*...the right inmate in
the right program at
the right time*

Academic Programs

Increase inmate reading levels to minimum 9th grade level with G.E.D. and accredited college courses also available

Career Technical Education

Prepares inmates for viable vocational career paths upon release by training to industry certification levels

Cognitive Behavioral Treatment

Provides evidence-based treatment for Substance Abuse, Anger Management, Family Relationships and Criminal Thinking

Offender Mentor Certification

Trains and certifies long-term inmates as interns by California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (CAADAC) to assist as mentors in various substance abuse treatment programs

Pre-Employment Transition

Provides job readiness skills including job search, resume, interviewing, financial skills, access to one-stop career centers

California Identification Card

Assists in obtaining state-issued I.D. cards assist in securing employment, housing, bank accounts, travel, and more

Reentry Hubs

Provide relevant training and services to eligible and interested inmates within 4 years of release

Step-Down Pilot Program

Provides alternatives to criminal gang lifestyle to reduce confinement in Security Housing Units (SHU)

Watch for New Programs:

- Long-Term Offender Program
- Sex Offender Treatment

...and...right outside the gate!

Community & Reentry Services

A growing network of focused evidence-based programs and partnerships emphasize substance abuse treatment, life skills, career development and education, to help offenders transform their lives and successfully reintegrate into society



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Actors' Gang Prison Project Unlocking Emotions to Break the Cycle



"We think that the only way to survive a sentence is to become completely numb. I've been numb for 20 years. Doing this work today showed me that even though it's easier to remain numb, it's not necessarily the right thing to do. This work has enabled me to rediscover my emotions and my humanity. For the first time in 20 years, I choose not to be numb anymore."

Actors Gang Prison Project Student

Launched in 2006 at the California Institute for Men (CIM), the [Actors' Gang Prison Project](#) conducts three (3) eight-week sessions per year at the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC). Actress Sabra Williams, who worked in United Kingdom prisons as an actress with The English Shakespeare Company and The London Shakespeare Workout, proposed the idea of the Prison Project when she and Actors' Gang founder Tim Robbins became aware of the extreme overcrowding in prisons, high recidivism rates, and cycle of negative impact on communities by offenders and re-offenders.

Four-hour workshops are held once a week with 20 to 25 inmate participants working with five actors from the Actors' Gang including Robbins and Williams. Final presentations invite inmates, prison staff, elected officials, and Prison Project supporters to witness the participants' work.

Please contact Elliot LaPlante, The Actors' Gang, marketing@theactorsgang.com



"Our work is extremely physical and uses four heightened emotional states: happy, angry, sad and afraid. Through this work The Prison Project endeavors to unlock human potential in the interest of effective rehabilitation. The Prison Project uses the Actors' Gang's theatrical technique to foster self-esteem, tolerance, and non-violent expression, significantly reducing recidivism rates and preparing inmates for life beyond bars by giving them the emotional tools to return successfully to our communities."

Sabra Williams, Founder, Actors Gang Prison Project

Master Class

SNY Graduation @ Chuckawalla Valley

Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP) Adult School held a special graduation ceremony on Wednesday, November 6, 2013. Eighty inmates from CVSP's Sensitive Needs Yard (SNY) were honored. Most inmates appropriate for SNY housing fall into one of the following categories:

- Prison Gang Dropout
- Victim of Assault
- Significant Enemy or Other Safety Concerns

Nineteen inmates received Associate of Arts (AA) degrees and/or certificates from accredited colleges; four received high school diplomas; 27 received GEDs; and 36 received Career Technical Education (CTE) certifications, primarily in electronics and welding.



Graduate robes indicate different fields of study. Yellow robes (rear): CTE graduates; Red robes: High School/GED diplomas; Blue robes (front): college degrees or certificates.

The celebration of these inmates' accomplishments was enjoyed by the graduates, their families, and staff. One inmate presented a song which he wrote and dedicated to his fellow graduates. Two speakers provided positive messages to the graduates, delivered with a sense of humor which were widely appreciated.

Please contact Lt. Jeanette Crandall, CVSP, jeanette.crandall@cdcr.ca.gov